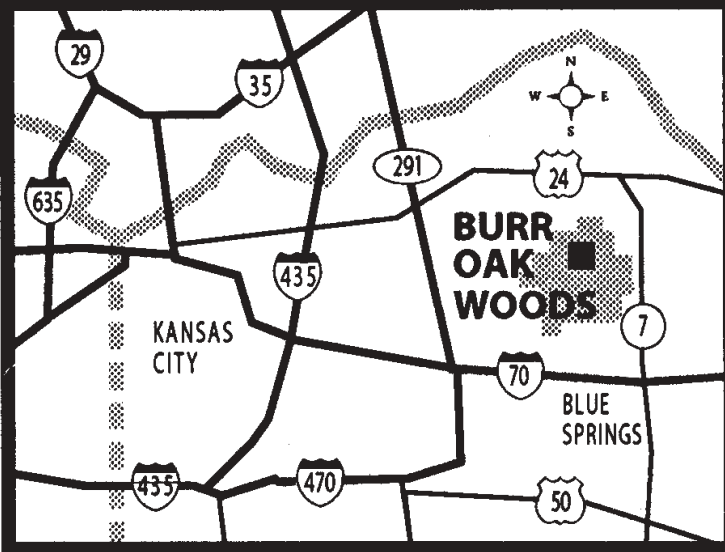


LEARN MORE ABOUT BURR OAK WOODS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.BURROAKWOODS.ORG



BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and noon to 5 PM on Sundays. **Area Hours: 8 AM to 8 PM.** No pets allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766**



The Nutshell

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
1401 NW PARK ROAD - BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64015

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015

Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268

Fax: 816-655-6267

NATURE CENTER

MANAGER

Lynn Youngblood

INTERPRETIVE

PROGRAM

SUPERVISOR

R. Craig Hensley

NATURALISTS

Stephanie Acers

Lisa LaCombe

Diane Neal

Shalena View

Carol Barclay

Sheri Medlock

Jenna Rhodes

CLERICAL

Lauren McCarthy, *Office Supervisor*

Joan Blackmon

Paulette Ozias

Joe Polka

Gina Schafer

MAINTENANCE

Wayne Bass, *Lead*

David Bilyeu

Jeremy Jones

Rachael Butler

Ed Miller

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The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

Volume 18 **August 2004** Number 08

New Volunteer Class To Begin

Do you enjoy the outdoors? Do you enjoy working with children? Do you have time to give during the weekday? If you answered yes to these three questions then Burr Oak Woods is looking for you!

We are currently taking applications for a new volunteer training class, slated to begin Tuesday, August 31. This volunteer class, which requires 32 hours of training, is specifically for those volunteer candidates that can assist the naturalist staff with school programs on Tuesdays through Fridays. Volunteer candidates are required to attend every training session as outlined below. Upon graduation, volunteers are then required to provide 24 hours of volunteer service every two months and attend a mandatory monthly meeting held the third Wednesday of each month.

If you are interested in being considered for this volunteer opportunity, please stop by the nature center or contact Craig Hensley at 655-6263 ext. 227 for an application and job description.

Volunteer Training Schedule (Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

August 31, September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19

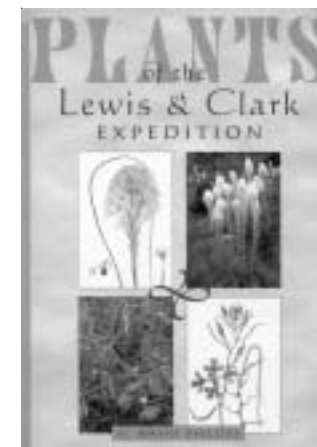


“Plants of the Lewis & Clark Expedition”

Sunday, August 1st

2:00 p.m. Families (with children 12 and up)

Join us as author and botanist, H. Wayne Phillips, a resident of Great Falls Montana, presents a slide show that combines history with botany, taking you from St. Louis to Fort Clatsop along the Lewis & Clark trail. With stunning photography, he will show you the characteristic landscape and plants encountered by Lewis & Clark while discussing the related observations of the explorers in their journals. After the presentation, Wayne will be on hand to sell and sign your own copy of his wonderful book. A must-have for the botanist or Lewis & Clark enthusiast! Please call to register.



Saturday, September 18th

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Big bluestem and Indian Grass are at their peak and the prairies are dotted with the colors of numerous wildflowers -- and we're celebrating! Join us on Saturday, September 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a trip back in time as we share our love of prairies and days gone by. You'll meet "Laura Ingalls Wilder", listen to the stories of the famed Buffalo Soldiers and listen to the old-time tunes of the Happy Time Pickers and Missouri Town Band. A variety of crafters will be present, from quilters to a basket maker. You'll get to watch and then join in with the Village Cloggers in the morning and the Preston Tonepahhote Dancers, a native american dance troop, in the afternoon. There will be plenty for the kids including horse-drawn prairie rides, old-time prairie games, a buffalo chip throwing contest, storytelling and more. We'll even have lunch for our first 2,000 visitors. This will be a truly great time for families of all sizes and ages.

Mark Your Calendar!!

Prairie Day 2004

will be back to Burr Oak Woods



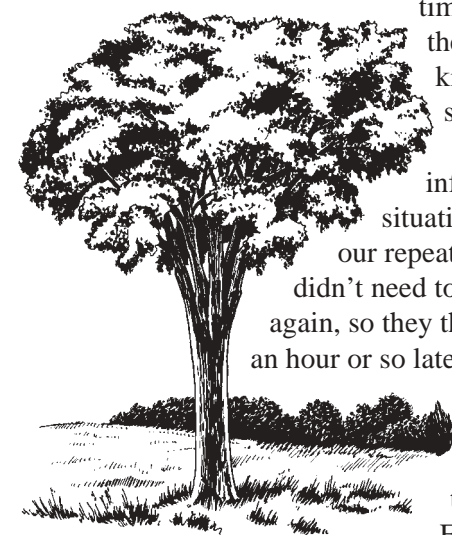
Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!

From the Treetops

It happened again this morning. As is the norm, Outdoor Skills Camp was booked full with a waiting list, yet only 25 of the 40 kids on the list showed up. Outdoor Skills Camp is one of the hottest programs we offer during the summer. Folks call on the first day of the month because they know that it will fill fast.

On the day of the program, naturalists and volunteers eagerly await the arrival of the campers. Camp has been set up since early in the morning following months of planning, lunches have been purchased and, sadly, other kids have been turned down due to the demand. Imagine the disappointment and frustration when only two-thirds of the anticipated kids arrive, effectively leaving 15 slots open that could have been filled with children on the waiting list. They could have had the fun, joy, and challenge of the Outdoor Skills Camp. They will all miss out due to the thoughtlessness of others.

Sure, we have a waiting list; we have a long one of kids waiting to get into camp for each day. That works great when the parents call in advance to let us know their children can't come; then other families can plan on coming. What doesn't work is trying to call someone the morning of camp. We've already waited 15 – 20 minutes for these children to show up at the pond. By the time we've given up and called the nature center to notify another family, the new family has either made other plans or can't get here for another hour. By that



time, they've missed all of the safety sessions, or all kinds of other important stuff. Speaking of safety information, we had a new situation this year. Several of our repeat campers decided they didn't need to hear the safety session again, so they thought they would arrive an hour or so late, conveniently missing out on that part just in time for the "fun." Little did they know that, "No Safety = No Fun." They were turned

away. Believe me; this isn't easy on us either. We want your kids to be here having fun, but safety is number one!

Bats

Did You Know?

- Bats are the only mammals that can fly.
- There are 14 different kinds of bats in Missouri.
- They use echolocation, or sonar, in order to navigate and capture insects
- Bats can eat thousands of insects (including those annoying mosquitoes) each can amount to more than 50% of the bats body weight.
- They hang upside down in order to use gravity to pick up speed before they are able to fly; the speed as they fall downward, and start flapping their wings to fly.
- Bat droppings, called guano, were once used in the Civil War to make saltpeter for producing guano is used as fertilizer.

Many parents justify not showing up because they don't have to pay for our camp, or for any of our programs. Since there is no money outlay, there's nothing lost to just not showing up. While there is no charge for our programs, there is an operating cost for every program we offer. The Department has to pay the salaries of the staff, the supplies for the programs, the upkeep of the area, the maintenance of the nature center, etc. All of these overhead costs are paid by you and me, the taxpayers. The real loss is in the child who missed out because an empty slot took their place. Outdoor Skills Camp is not the only program where no-shows are a problem. Almost every single program we offer has no-shows!

People coming in late is the second biggest problem. I've never really understood what the point of arriving 20 minutes late to an hour program was anyway. You and/or your children have already missed a large portion of the program. Even 20 minutes late to a 2-hour program is missing a lot, it's the whole introduction.

I know all of this may sound trivial, but this is what makes a nature center run smoothly. It's also what we're here for; to provide programs to as many people who want to come as we can. We put so much into developing, planning, getting supplies and setting up for programs that it's really terribly disappointing when this continues to happen. It just seems so unfair to the kids who could be enjoying camp, or any of the programs, who can't come because a simple phone call wasn't made in advance.

So, I'll ask you today to turn in a new resolution (and you know if you're one of the offenders): if you can't come to a program you've signed up for, please call us in advance (the morning of doesn't count unless someone is ill), remember that families have other plans, too. If you have signed up for a program, please come on time. In the scheme of things, it does matter and you're teaching your child some valuable lessons in responsibility.

As your nature center, we want to be here for you, for all of you. Thank you!

— LYNN YOUNGBLOOD
Nature Center Manager



~ Naturalist Notebook ~

Go Batty for Bats!



The sun was just beginning to sink below the western horizon when I stepped into the entrance of Devils Icebox cave in Columbia, Missouri. Glancing around the dark cavern I spotted several flying objects. I turned on my flashlight to get a better look and I spotted them. There were hundreds of bats flying round and round inside the cavern. Then, without a sound, they began to leave the confines of the cave. Of course I was still standing in the entrance and the bats had to pass right by me to exit. For 10 minutes I just stood there, watching the bats fly out into the darkening sky, flapping within inches of my head. It was a defining moment for me, one that I will treasure always.

Many people would have been frightened to have been in the same situation. Why is that? Why do so many people fear these majestic bats? Is it because they live in deep dark caves by day and fly by the light of the moon? Or is it because they hang upside down to sleep and have a face only their mother could love? Each of us has our reasons for being wary of these animals, but if we try to learn more about them, perhaps we will lose some of that fear.

We've all seen the old Dracula movie where the Count sucks an innocent victim's blood then changes into a bat and disappears into the dark



night. I'm sure I don't need to tell you that these shape shifting creatures don't exist, but the Hollywood story is based on some fact. There are bats known as vampire bats that live in Mexico, Central, and South Mexico but none in Missouri. The bats that we see flying around a night are insect eaters. They eat a variety of flying insects including mosquitoes! For those of us that are driven indoors at dusk by the swarms of hungry mosquitoes you will be happy to know that a bat can eat up to 4500 insects a night. That's a lot of fast flying! Bats catch all these insects in flight in a very peculiar manner. They actually scoop the insects out of the air with their tail and wing membranes and push them into their mouths. It's quite fascinating to watch the bats dart, dash, and plummet while chasing after these insects, but how they find the insects is even more interesting. They use something called echolocation to help "see" their surroundings. Bats can see as well as we can, but at night it's sometimes difficult to see clearly. Echolocation is a type of sound wave that bounces off objects and reflects back to the bat. The bat can then interpret these sound waves and detect flying insects, cave walls, even a single human hair. So if you stand very still like I did, the bats can be flying all around you and never bump into you. So now that you know a little more about these wonderful creatures... will you still fear them?

-Diane Neal



- Natural Happenings -

- Young striped skunks leave their dens this month and may be spray happy!
- Be on the look out for tree rubs from male white-tailed deer. They will be trying to remove the velvet from their antlers this month.
- Many baby copperheads are born the second week of August.
- Keep your hummingbird feeders filled and fresh. Hummingbirds begin their long migration this month.
- Keep an eye to the sky at dusk. Baby bats are beginning to fly!

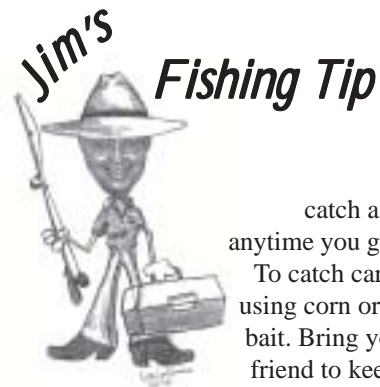


Deer and Turkey Hunters: What's New for 2004

The new 2004 Fall Deer and Turkey regulation booklets are now available.

Below are several of the changes for the fall hunting seasons.

- Antler-point restrictions in 29 counties.
- Deer management boundaries along county lines. Management units have been eliminated.
- Archery deer and turkey season opens September 15th.
- Resident archers may purchase Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits without first purchasing an Archer's Hunting Permit.
- Additional counties are open during the urban portion of the firearms deer season, and hunters may use any legal method.
- Nonresident youth can hunt during the youth portion of the firearms deer season.
- Farm tags are no longer valid; resident landowners and lessees must get their no-cost permits from any permit vendor.
- Resident landowners may fill two Any-Deer Permits (one no-cost and one purchased), **but only one antlered deer may be taken.**
- 24-hour checking for all deer and turkey hunters.
- Deer and turkey may be checked in any county.
- Qualifying resident landowners may use the telephone or internet to check all their deer and turkey.
- All firearms turkey hunters may use the telephone or internet to check their game.
- Get deer permits early to have a chance to win a lifetime hunting & fishing permit.



A person could spend a lifetime trying to catch a 10 pound bass but you might catch a 10 pound carp and larger almost anytime you go after them.

To catch carp fishing from the bank is best using corn or your own special dough ball bait. Bring your heavy equipment and a friend to keep you from being pulled into the lake and have a great day.

Catch and Release Family Fishing

Saturday, August 14 or 28

9:00-11:00 a.m. Families (with children 5 and up)

What could be more enjoyable than to enjoy a warm summer morning with your family at the fishin' hole? No experience is necessary for this jump start program. We provide all equipment, even the worms! Participants age 16-65 must have a valid Missouri fishing license, which can be purchased at the nature center. So join our staff and volunteers for a great time. The pond is fully accessible. Please call to register.



Programs at Lake City Range & Training Center

Firearm Stock Refinishing Class Wednesdays, August 11 & 25, 6-8 p.m.

There are a few more good hunting seasons and memories in that beat up and scratched gun you put in the closet last hunting season. With a little sanding, wood filler and staining that wooden stock could look better than new.

Bring your unloaded firearm to the "refinishing doctors" at the range and in two sessions, with a little effort from you, we can change that old firearm into your pride and joy. We'll provide all materials required. Please call 816-229-4448 to register.

Butterfly Primer Tuesday, August 24, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

From Monarchs and swallowtails to fritillaries and skippers, butterflies abound, and with a little effort you can attract them to your yard. Join Burr Oak Woods' naturalist and Assistant Manager, Craig Hensley for an introduction to butterflies, their identification and and life cycle, and learn what plants can be used to attract them both as caterpillars and adults. Please call 816-229-4448 to register.



Lewis and Clark Corner



Missouri in the 1800's

It's difficult to imagine Missouri as the Lewis and Clark expedition saw it on their journey to the Pacific Ocean. Where we now see highways, tall buildings, and residential developments, they saw unspoiled prairies, oxbow lakes, rich grasslands, and thick forests. Lewis and Clark wrote that Missouri "is beautiful, bountiful and a good place to build homes."

For those of you who now call Missouri home, you might be interested to know what used to inhabit the place where your current residence lies. Cottontail rabbits were very abundant during the 1800's. They were found in open, brushy cover and ate such things as grasses, twigs, bark and buds in winter. During summer they ate green plants, especially clover.

A now extinct animal—the Carolina parakeet, was Missouri's only native parrot. This bright green, yellow and red bird lived in forests and ate seeds, nuts, and fruits. There were large flocks of these birds before they were killed to extinction by the early 1900's.

The very first new species discovered by the expedition was the eastern wood rat. You might know this animal by one of its common names—pack rat. The name was given due to its peculiar habit of picking up shiny, metallic objects and using them in their nests. These

furry mammals are almost entirely vegetarian, existing on all types of plant foods, fungi, perhaps a snail or a dead bird and a few insects. When threatened, this animal stamps its front and hind feet and vibrates its tail to make a buzzing sound. The eastern wood rat can be found in the southern half of the state.

Not only did Lewis and Clark find animals in Missouri, but they discovered plants; too. The famous Missouri plant from the Lewis and Clark expedition was undoubtedly the pawpaw tree. These trees produce the pawpaw, which is our biggest native edible fruit. The pawpaw fruit is a soft banana like and can grow up to 6 inches long. Pawpaw trees grow best in soil that is moist, fertile, and deep, which explains why Lewis and Clark relied so heavily on them on the return trip. They didn't have time to hunt and the pawpaw fruit could be picked right from the boats! Talk about a drive through meal!

So, as you can see, before Missouri was occupied by European settlers, it was inhabited by many different living creatures and plants and in great numbers, too. We still live on this rich land. It's our job to conserve these natural resources so that they don't follow the path of the Carolina parakeet.

Saturday, August 7th

Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

On the Trails with Lewis and Clark

10:00 a.m. Families (with children 6 and up)

This year marks the anniversary of the westward discovery with Lewis and Clark. We will dress up in moleskin costume and go on the trails as Lewis and Clark. We will go on a discovery hunt to the wild West of Burr Oak Woods and mark the new territory in our journals. Please call or email to register.

Nature Centers Kick off Lewis & Clark Journaling Adventure

In concert with the Lewis and Clark celebrations going on throughout Missouri, the Missouri Department of Conservation has begun a new program entitled "Journaling With Lewis and Clark: A Discovery of Outdoor Missouri." Your mission is to explore the Conservation Department's nature centers and interpretive sites throughout Missouri and record your experiences in true Lewis and Clark fashion in a special *Journaling with Lewis and Clark* booklet. Simply stop by and pick up a copy of the booklet and complete the journaling task outlined for Burr Oak Woods. We'll stamp it and you'll receive a Lewis and Clark commemorative pin for your efforts. Then take your journal and visit the other locations around the state to complete their journaling tasks. Once you've completed your journal, you'll receive a special award for your efforts! Come out and start exploring today!

Saturday, August 14th

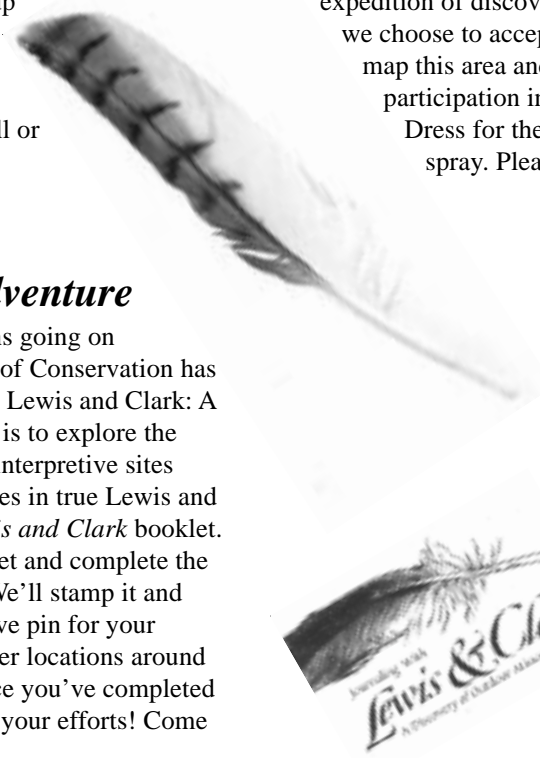
Discover Burr Oak Woods

as Lewis and Clark!

10:00 a.m. Families (with children 8 and up)

Imagine that President Thomas Jefferson has asked us to join an expedition of discovery into the wilds of Burr Oak Woods! If we choose to accept this challenge, it will be our charge to map this area and discover the hidden mysteries through participation in challenging and fun-filled activities!

Dress for the weather. Bring water, sun screen, and bug spray. Please call to register.



August Programs

Program Registration

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) on or after the first of the month to register for the **FREE** programs list on this page. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

1 Sunday

Plants of the Lewis & Clark Expedition

See details on page 1. Please call to register.
Age: Families (with children 12 and up)
Time: 2:00 p.m.

6 Friday

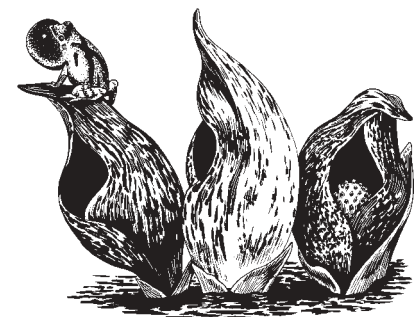
Bats of Missouri

Join Urban Wildlife Biologist Debra Burns for a look at the realm of bats. You'll learn how they echolocate to find prey and get pointers on setting up your own bat house. In addition, Deb will demonstrate a special device that records the echolocation calls of bats and share live bats captured in special nets prior to the program. Please call to register.
Age: Families (children 5 and up)
Time: 8:00-9:30 p.m.

7 Saturday

Deaf and Hard of Hearing: On the Trails with Lewis and Clark

See details on page 3. Please call or email to register.
Age: Families (children 6 and up)
Time: 10:00-Noon



13 Friday

Adults Only:

Devil's Icebox Wild Cave Tour

Join special guest Cave Trip Leader, Molly Postlewait and naturalist Lisa LaCombe for a truly fantastic field trip adventure you will absolutely never forget as we slip our canoes into the darkness and enter this amazing new world! We will meet at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center at 8:00 am and board the van heading to Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, south of Columbia, Missouri. The van returns to the nature center by 8:00 pm. We will spend approximately 4 hours underground exploring and discovering the wildlife that live there! You **must** be in good physical condition to participate in this trip. Previous experience is not required. The Department of Nature Resources charges of \$25 dollars for this trip. Please call Lisa at 816-655-6263 ext 232 for further information and to register.

Ages: Adults Only (18 and up)
Time: 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

14 Saturday

Family Fishing

See details on page 6. Please call to register.
Ages: Families (children 5 and up)
Time: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

14 Saturday

Discover Burr Oak Woods as Lewis and Clark!

See details on page 3. Please call to register
Ages: Families (children 8 and up)
Time: 10:00 a.m.-Noon

15 Sunday

Insect Scavenger Hunt!

Come and sneak a peek into the fantastic world of insects! We will venture out into the woods and prairies of Burr Oak Woods with nets and magnifying glasses in hand! We will participate in a friendly competition to see which team can find the greatest diversity of insects! Bring your magnifying glass! You will love learning about these small and amazing critters! Dress for the weather. Bring water, sun screen, and bug spray. Please call to register.

Ages: Families (children 8 and up)
Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

18 Wednesday

Adults Only:

Little Blue River Wild Edible Stroll

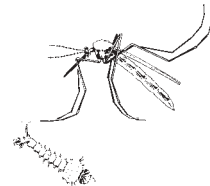
You asked for it...here it is! Join volunteer naturalist, Frances Mathews on another special wild edibles identification hike! We will meet at the shelter house on the Little Blue Trace. From Blue Springs, take 7 Hwy north to 24 Hwy, turn west or left. Cross the bridge and turn left or south on Lexington Road. Follow Lexington to the shelter house. Please call to register.

Ages: Adults Only (18 and up)
Time: 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

20 Friday

Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Insect-A-Mania

Did you know that the number of insect species tops all of the fish, forest, and wildlife in the world? We will go on an insect hunt and see how many we can find! We will learn what makes an insect and find out why they are so important. Please call or email to register.
Age: Families (children 6 and up)
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

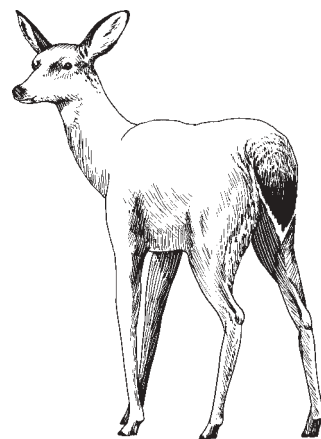


20 Friday

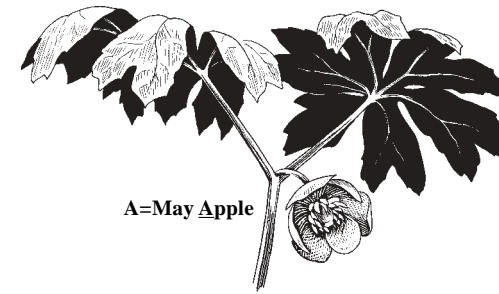
Wildlife Helps

A historic and contemporary look at how wildlife improves the human condition, and how we can improve conditions for wildlife. A take home craft project is included. Please call to register.

Ages: Families (children 10 and up)
Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.



August Programs



21 Saturday

Missouri Conservation Frontiers: ABC Nature Hunt

A=May Apple, B=Bat House, C=Kentucky Coffee Tree. Join us for an ABC nature hike where we will be looking for objects that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Be sure to dress for the weather. Please call to register
Ages: Families (all ages)
Time: 10:00-11:30 a.m.
1:00-2:30 p.m.

22 Sunday

Adults Only: Hiking Club

Join members of the Burr Oak Woods Hiking Club for their regular monthly hike. Please be sure to bring water and dress for hot weather. Please call to register.
Ages: Adults Only (18 and up)
Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

22 Sunday

A Snakes Tail

Everything you ever wanted to know about snakes and then some! We will be doing a live snake presentation so be sure to bring your cameras and questions! Seating is limited so be sure to register.
Ages: All Ages
Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

28 Saturday

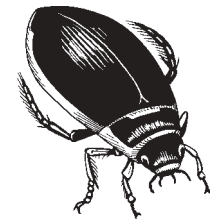
Family Fishing

See details on page 6. Please call to register.
Ages: Families (children 5 and up)
Time: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

28 Saturday

Just Buggin' Around

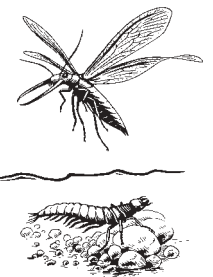
Come out and explore the world of bugs! We will catch our own bugs and take a closer look at the *many* different kinds of bugs out there! Dress for the weather, put on bug spray, bring water, bring a bug box if you have one. Please call to register.
Ages: Families (5 and up)
Time: 10:00-11:30 a.m.



29 Sunday

Missouri Conservation Frontiers: Aquatic Invertebrates

Have you ever been near the water and seen those little black beetles whirling about on the surface of the water? Well, join us as we get out of the heat and jump into a stream while we search for those little whirligig beetles and the many more mysterious insects of the water. Dress for the weather, put on bug spray, bring water, dress to get wet. Please call to register.
Ages: All ages
Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m.



Our reptiles and amphibians will be available for public viewing during the month of AUGUST in our temporary building.

